

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A toner supply container detachably mountable to a main assembly of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, comprising:

5 (a) a toner accommodating portion for accommodating toner;

(b) a toner supply opening or port for discharging toner accommodated in said toner accommodating portion;

10 (c) a toner feeding member for feeding the toner accommodated in said toner accommodating portion toward said toner supply opening by rotation thereof, wherein a center of rotation of said toner feeding member is in an opening region of said toner supply  
15 port as seen in the longitudinal direction of said toner feeding member.

2. A toner supply container according to Claim 1, wherein said toner supply port is projected  
20 outwardly from a lateral end surface crossing with the longitudinal direction of said toner accommodating portion.

3. A toner supply container according to Claim  
25 1, wherein the center of rotation of said toner feeding member is substantially concentric with the center of the opening region of said toner supply port

as seen in the longitudinal direction of said toner feeding member.

4. A toner supply container according to Claim  
5 1, 2, wherein the toner supply port is substantially cylindrical having an outer diameter of 26 mm - 29 mm.

5. A toner supply container according to Claim  
1, wherein said toner feeding member has a driving  
10 force receiving portion adjacent a toner supply port in the longitudinal direction, wherein said driving force receiving portion, when said toner supply container is detachably mounted to the main assembly of said apparatus, receives driving force from the  
15 main assembly of the apparatus, using said toner supply port.

6. A toner supply container according to Claim  
5, wherein said toner feeding member includes a shaft  
20 portion and a helical feeding portion extended along a longitudinal direction of said shaft portion, and said driving force receiving portion is extended from the shaft portion in its axial direction.

25 7. A toner supply container according to Claim 6, wherein said driving force receiving portion is projected outwardly from said toner supply port.

8. A toner supply container according to Claim 6, wherein at least one full-turn of the helical portion is in said toner supply port.

5 9. A toner supply container according to Claim 5, wherein a cross-section crossing with the longitudinal direction of said driving force receiving portion has a polygonal shape.

10 10. A toner supply container according to Claim 1, wherein said toner accommodating portion includes a curved portion having a decreasing width downwardly when it is detachably mounted to the main assembly of said apparatus in a cross-section in a direction  
15 crossing with the longitudinal direction, a linear portion having a substantially constant width extended from a bottom portion of said curved portion and a substantially semicircle portion extended from a bottom portion of said linear portion, and said toner  
20 feeding member is disposed in said linear portion and said semicircle portion.

11. A toner supply container according to Claim 1, wherein said toner supply container supplies, into  
25 the main assembly of said apparatus from said toner supply port, the toner accommodated in said toner accommodating portion by said toner feeding member in

accordance with consumption of the toner in the main assembly of said apparatus, when said toner supply container is detachably mounted to the main assembly of said apparatus.

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12. A toner supply container detachably mountable to a main assembly of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, comprising:

(a) a toner accommodating portion for  
10 accommodating toner;

(b) a toner supply port for discharging the toner accommodated in said toner accommodating portion, wherein said toner supply port is projected outwardly from a lateral end surface crossing with the  
15 longitudinal direction of said toner accommodating portion;

(c) a toner feeding member for feeding the toner accommodated in said toner accommodating portion toward said toner supply opening by rotation thereof,  
20 wherein a center of rotation of said toner feeding member is in an opening region of said toner supply port as seen in the longitudinal direction of said toner feeding member, and wherein said toner feeding member has a driving force receiving portion adjacent  
25 a toner supply port in the longitudinal direction, wherein said driving force receiving portion, when said toner supply container is detachably mounted to

the main assembly of said apparatus, receives driving force from the main assembly of the apparatus, using said toner supply port.

5        13.    A toner supply container according to Claim 12, wherein the center of rotation of said toner feeding member is substantially concentric with the center of the opening region of said toner supply port as seen in the longitudinal direction of said toner  
10    feeding member.

14.    A toner supply container according to Claim 12, wherein the toner supply port is substantially cylindrical having an outer diameter of 26 mm - 29 mm.  
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15.    A toner supply container according to Claim 12, wherein said toner feeding member includes a shaft portion and a helical feeding portion extended along a longitudinal direction of said shaft portion, and said  
20    driving force receiving portion is extended from the shaft portion in its axial direction.

16.    A toner supply container according to Claim 14, wherein said driving force receiving portion is  
25    projected outwardly from said toner supply port.

17.    A toner supply container according to Claim

14, wherein at least one full-turn of the helical portion is in said toner supply port.

18. A toner supply container according to Claim 5 12, wherein a cross-section crossing with the longitudinal direction of said driving force receiving portion has a polygonal shape.

19. A toner supply container according to Claim 10 12, wherein said toner accommodating portion includes a curved portion having a decreasing width downwardly when it is detachably mounted to the main assembly of said apparatus in a cross-section in a direction crossing with the longitudinal direction, a linear 15 portion having a substantially constant width extended from a bottom portion of said curved portion and a substantially semicircle portion extended from a bottom portion of said linear portion, and said toner feeding member is disposed in said linear portion and 20 said semicircle portion.

20. A toner supply container according to Claim 12, wherein said toner supply container supplies, into the main assembly of said apparatus from said toner 25 supply port, the toner accommodated in said toner accommodating portion by said toner feeding member in accordance with consumption of the toner in the main

assembly of said apparatus, when said toner supply container is detachably mounted to the main assembly of said apparatus.

5        21.    A toner supply container detachably mountable to a main assembly of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, comprising:

          (a) a toner accommodating portion for accommodating toner;

10           (b) a toner supply port for discharging the toner accommodated in said toner accommodating portion, wherein said toner supply port is projected outwardly from a lateral end surface crossing with the longitudinal direction of said toner accommodating  
15 portion;

          (c) a toner feeding member for feeding the toner accommodated in said toner accommodating portion toward said toner supply opening by rotation thereof, wherein said toner feeding member includes a shaft  
20 portion and a helical feeding portion extended along a longitudinal direction of said shaft portion, wherein at least one full-turn of the helical portion is in said toner supply port, wherein the center of rotation of said toner feeding member is substantially  
25 concentric with the center of the opening region of said toner supply port as seen in the longitudinal direction of said toner feeding member;

and said driving force receiving portion is extended from the shaft portion in its axial direction, wherein said toner feeding member has a driving force receiving portion adjacent a toner supply port in the longitudinal direction, wherein  
5 said driving force receiving portion is extended from said shaft portion in its axial direction to project out of said toner supply port, and wherein said driving force receiving portion, when said toner  
10 supply container is detachably mounted to the main assembly of said apparatus, receives driving force from the main assembly of the apparatus, using said toner supply port;

wherein said toner supply container supplies,  
15 into the main assembly of said apparatus from said toner supply port, the toner accommodated in said toner accommodating portion by said toner feeding member in accordance with consumption of the toner in the main assembly of said apparatus, when said toner  
20 supply container is detachably mounted to the main assembly of said apparatus.

22. A toner supply container according to Claim 21, wherein the toner supply port is substantially  
25 cylindrical having an outer diameter of 26 mm - 29 mm.

23. A toner supply container according to Claim



21, wherein a cross-section crossing with the longitudinal direction of said driving force receiving portion has a polygonal shape.

5        24. A toner supply container according to Claim 21, wherein said toner accommodating portion includes a curved portion having a decreasing width downwardly when it is detachably mounted to the main assembly of said apparatus in a cross-section in a direction  
10 crossing with the longitudinal direction, a linear portion having a substantially constant width extended from a bottom portion of said curved portion and a substantially semicircle portion extended from a bottom portion of said linear portion, and said toner  
15 feeding member is disposed in said linear portion and said semicircle portion.

25. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus for forming an image on a recording  
20 material, comprising:

(a) mounting means for detachably mounting a toner supply container, said toner supply container including:

a toner accommodating portion for  
25 accommodating toner;

a toner supply opening or port for discharging toner accommodated in said toner

accommodating portion;

a toner feeding member for feeding the toner  
accommodated in said toner accommodating portion  
toward said toner supply opening by rotation thereof,  
5 wherein a center of rotation of said toner feeding  
member is in an opening region of said toner supply  
port as seen in the longitudinal direction of said  
toner feeding member;

(b) a toner receiving portion for receiving  
10 the toner fed through said toner supply port when said  
toner supply container is detachably mounted to the  
main assembly of said apparatus by said mounting  
means.

15 26. A toner supply container detachably mountable  
to a main assembly of an electrophotographic image  
forming apparatus, comprising:

(a) a toner accommodating portion for  
accommodating toner;

20 (b) a toner supply port for discharging the  
toner accommodated in said toner accommodating  
portion;

(c) a toner feeding member for feeding the  
toner accommodated in said toner accommodating  
25 portion.